

American Studies Program



Georgetown University

Winter Newsletter 2008

A Message from the Director of the American Studies Program, Diana Owen

Dear American Studies Community,

These are exciting times for American Studies at Georgetown. Our current students are continuing the tradition of excellence established by our founders, Father Joseph Durkin and Dr. Dorothy Brown, with their intellectual curiosity, innovation, creativity, and desire to probe the depths of interdisciplinary knowledge. This May, American Studies will graduate the largest class in the program's history. Our alumni have taken many fulfilling and distinguished paths, and are a source of great pride. Our faculty are simply the best—their commitment to students, intellectual achievements, and hard work make American Studies at Georgetown stand out.

The program has been a hub of activity. American Studies is the recipient of an Undergraduate Learning Initiative (ULI) grant from the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS) and Georgetown College to explore and implement innovations in the curriculum. Majors will develop digital portfolios throughout their academic careers that will allow them to integrate their curriculum and prepare for the senior thesis. Students also can incorporate a variety of innovations into their thesis projects, including digital stories, documentary film, and live performance. They will gain experience with these approaches in courses, including American Civilization III: Documentary, where students have produced impressive short films about topics related to Washington, D.C..

American Studies students and faculty enjoyed a spring 2007 field trip to the Clara Barton House and Glen Echo Park with lunch at the Irish Inn at Glen Echo. Mount Vernon was the destination of the fall 2007 field trip. The group, which numbered over forty people, explored the newly renovated site

and exhibits, followed by lunch at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, VA, an establishment frequented by George Washington. We are planning a trip to Harpers Ferry and Antietam in the spring.

The 20th Anniversary of the annual Richardson Lecture was celebrated with a talk by Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *Mayflower* and *In the Heart of the Sea*. We were happy to see a number of alumni at this prestigious event. Gene Roberts, recipient of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for History for coauthoring *The Race Beat: The Press, The Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation*, will deliver the 2008 Richardson Lecture on March 27. Dora Richardson continues to graciously open her home to American Studies students for the annual end of the year picnic.



*American Studies alumna and benefactor
Dora Richardson with Diana Owen*

American Studies is pleased to be hosting Dr. Zhangyi, Associate Professor and Vice Dean of the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University, Shanghai, China, for the 2007-08 academic year. Dr. Zhangyi is a Faculty Fellow who is interested in comparing American and Chinese political culture and socialization and studying American elections. She has been learning about American Studies by participating in the program's activities and by sitting in on courses, including American Civilization I.

There is so much going on in American Studies that this brief note has only been able to touch on a few of the highlights. All of you are responsible for the success of American Studies at Georgetown, and I look forward to the future with great anticipation.

Diana Owen

FACULTY CORNER

**Elizabeth McKeown, “Kazin on Bryan”
Tocqueville Forum, Georgetown University
October 26, 2006**

First, a word about our sponsor. As I understand it, Georgetown’s new Tocqueville Forum “seeks to advance the study of America’s founding principles and their roots in the Western philosophical and religious traditions. Named for Alexis de Tocqueville, the 19th-century French observer of America, the Forum endeavors to emulate Tocqueville’s sympathetic and penetrating exploration of the origins of and prospects for American constitutional democracy” and religion.

Tocqueville was indeed interested in religion in America. In 1831, as he and his friend Gustav Beaumont toured the United States, he sent made a preliminary assessment of American Protestant Christianity in a letter home:

“Sunday is rigorously observed [in the United States,” he wrote. “I have seen streets barred off in front of churches during divine service. The law commands these things imperiously, and public opinion, which is much stronger than the law, obliges every one to show himself at a church and to abstain from all diversion.”

But he also saw a considerable distance between the appearance of the thing and the reality. “And yet, unless I am much mistaken, there is a great depth of doubt and indifference hidden under these external forms. Political passion and irreligion don’t mix here as they do with us, but for all that, religion has no more power.” Tocqueville recognized that Protestant tradition had provided “a very strong impulsion” to the American project, but it was a legacy which, he said, “is now diminishing every day. Faith is evidently inert. Go to the churches (I mean the Protestant ones) and you will hear morality preached. Of dogma, not a

word.” And he found the moral instruction of the churches entirely conventional. It contained “Nothing which can at all shock the neighbor; nothing which can arouse the idea of dissent.... [In America] one follows a religion as our fathers took medicine in the month of May. If it doesn’t do any good, one seems to say, at least it can do no harm” (Pierson).

So it seems useful for members of the Tocqueville Forum Roundtable to ask: Did Tocqueville get it wrong? Was he in the country too short a time to recognize the enduring elements of revival and reform that had swept the country in the twenty-five years since Timothy Dwight urged the young members of the Holy Club at Yale to go West to win America for Christ? Did his Catholic sensibilities cause him to overlook the powerful engine of social formation represented in the Protestant attention to public morals.

The answer is “No.” Tocqueville caught on very quickly. By the time he published the second volume of *Democracy in America* in 1840, he had come to much more expansive prescriptions for religion and politics in America. His keystones were dogma and a good delivery system.

First, dogma. “There is hardly any human action, however private it may be, which does not result from some very general conception men have of God, of his relations with the human race, of the nature of their soul, and of their duties to their fellows.... It is therefore of immense importance to men to have fixed ideas about God, their souls, and their duties toward their Creator and their fellows, for doubt about these first principles would leave all their actions to chance and condemn them, more or less, to anarchy and impotence.”

And then the delivery system. Tocqueville argued that these indispensable “fixed ideas about God and human nature” ought to be withdrawn from the “habitual action of private judgment.” The chief object of religion is to “provide answers...” These answers “must be clear, precise, intelligible to the crowd, and very durable” (Tocqueville).

Now let’s imagine Tocqueville in the press box at the Chicago Coliseum in 1896. Maybe he’s reporting for *Le Monde*. What does he make of William Jennings Bryan and his devoted followers? Is he heartened to see the public work that evangelical Protestants are doing? Does he wonder at Bryan’s “strange composite voice”? How does he report the character of his following?

Fortunately, we have a Tocqueville stand-in this afternoon to help us advance these questions. Michael Kazin has spent years trying to understand the religious roots of American political culture, and he has worked hard to induce others from the secular left to pay attention also. He thinks that an opening toward religion can reanimate the Democratic party and revitalize progressive liberalism in the United States.

In this book, Kazin presents the fruits of his labor in the form of a layered biography. He brings us Bryan—a character perhaps more interesting in Kazin’s retrospect than in real life—a simple character, a character who spent very little time in New York or LA and who asked very few questions. But Bryan had answers, and those answers were “clear, precise, intelligible to the crowd, and very durable.” He preached a plain recipe for religion and politics: the Bible provided clear and distinct ideas; (white) bible readers provided the muscle for a movement of Social Gospel reform, aimed at taking power from the plutocrats and returning it to the people. Bryan’s people.

Gifted with a voice, a pen and notable political skills, Bryan won party nominations and lost presidential elections in legendary fashion, as he went about helping to change the way the nation conducts itself under God. His list of credits is extensive: he was a leading proponent of three constitutional amendments; he supported the rights of labor and women’s suffrage; he promoted the regulation of big business, the reform of campaign finance, progressive taxation, pacifism... and so much more. In the end, he also became a fierce opponent of Darwinism, giving his full voice to a well-founded popular fear that those who supported evolution would also support eugenics and “misuse science as a weapon against the weak” (Lears). Bryan also consistently refused to support equal rights for African Americans and cheerfully overlooked the enduring racism of his own practice and that of millions of his followers.

Those followers—the “common people”—form the second level of this layered biography. Kazin makes a special effort to bring Bryan’s supporters to the front of the stage in this story and to watch them form and reform and wear away in the course of The Great Commoner’s thirty-five years of public life. Kazin thinks that critics have “failed to appreciate what drew millions of American to Bryan—the yearning for a society run by and for ordinary people who lead virtuous lives.... Bryan made significant public issues sound urgent, dramatic and clear, and he encouraged citizens to challenge the motives and interests of the most powerful people in the land.” Kazin’s own voice resonates here when he observes that Bryan’s ability to set a progressive course is “a quality absent among our recent leaders, for all their promises to leave no man, woman or child behind.”

It seems evident that Kazin’s biography of Bryan is also a biographical sketch of the Democratic Party, as struggled to gain and keep national power between Reconstruction and the New Deal. And beyond. Kazin’s effort to create space in public memory for

Bryan's bible-centered reform politics is also an altar call. Contemporary liberals should come forward and do likewise, imitating not Bryan, but Kazin himself. To reanimate social democracy in America, secular liberals and progressives should learn from the successes and failures of Bryan's Democracy. They should learn, in particular, to reconsider their habit of dismissing the role of religion in politics, and of withholding hospitality from religiously-grounded reformers (Kazin).

So beneath the layers of political biography and party history in this engaging palimpsest, there is also a trace of Kazin's own biography—and *he* is *not* a simple character. His pilgrimage from '60s student radical—Harvard SDS, Weatherman, Oregon communitard—to history professor and public intellectual has been marked by his own efforts to sustain a concern for social democracy in America. He believes that the movement can still benefit from the energy and commitment that religion can bring to the table. William Jennings Bryan is his bellwether. His book is a call to action. It's easy to see why progressives might want to talk to evangelicals. The next question, then, is why evangelicals will want to join the conversation that progressives like Kazin want to foster. What's in it for them? Will Rick Warren write progressives like Barack Obama into *The Purpose Driven Life*? Tocqueville would not be surprised to see it happen in America.

References

1. George Wilson Pierson, *Tocqueville and Beaumont in America*.
2. Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1835/1850): II:5; Mayer edition, 442-43.
3. Jackson Lears, "When Jesus Was a Democrat," *The New Republic* (April 10, 2006).
4. See, e.g., Michael Kazin, "Life of the Party: Democrats Need to Get Their Act Together," *MotherJones* (January/February, 2005): "They should start acting more like the people's party they once were—and less like a traveling road show that packs up after each election."

Faculty Spotlight

Bernie Cook

Dr. Bernie Cook, Assistant Dean in Georgetown College and Adjunct Assistant Professor of American Studies at Georgetown University, has edited *Thelma & Louise Live! The Cultural Afterlife of an American Film* (Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 2007). In *Thelma & Louise Live!*, six noted film scholars investigate the initial reception and ongoing impact of this landmark film. The writers consider *Thelma & Louise* from a variety of perspectives, turning attention to the film's promotion and audience response over time; to theories of comedy and the role of laughter in the film; to the film's soundtrack and score; to the performances of stars Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis; to the emergence of Brad Pitt as a star and male sex object; and to the film's place in the history of road and crime film genres. Complementing the scholarly analysis, Dr. Cook conducted an in-depth interview with screenwriter Callie Khouri. The anthology also features reviews of *Thelma & Louise* from *U.S. News & World Report* and *Time* at the time of the film's initial release in theaters.



Alison Hilton

Professor Alison Hilton, Director of Georgetown's new M.A. Program in Art and Museum Studies, has been collaborating with several students who are doing research or working on internships in museums of American art in Washington, DC. Professor Hilton's most recent lecture related to American Studies interests was given at the University of Virginia on November 1st. It was entitled, "The Pride of our Country - How Museums Frame Culture and Identity." Professor Hilton's major area of research is Russian and Soviet art.



Jay Lorenz

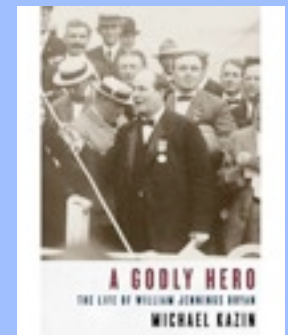
Professor Jay Lorenz served as the academic director for Georgetown's Summer Institute for Student Leaders and continues to mentor students participating in entertainment media internships during the summer. Professor Lorenz recently finished working on a documentary about film exhibition in the United States. This marks his seventh appearance in a BBC/Channel Four documentary, and the first time that Professor Lorenz served as screenwriter.



He is editing a memoir for publication next year, tentatively titled *Sweet Pop Glasses*.

Michael Kazin

Professor Kazin's book, *A Godly Hero: The Life of William Jennings Bryan*, was published in paperback by Anchor. It was listed as one of the best books of the year by The Washington Post, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, McClatchy Group, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and NPR's Fresh Air, and won an order of merit from Christianity Today. Professor Kazin received the Distinguished Achievement in Research Award from Georgetown's Graduate School.



Professor Kazin has signed a contract with University of Pennsylvania Press to edit a collection of articles on contemporary US politics and history, entitled *Progressive America*. It will be out next year. He also published essays in *Liberalism for a New Century* (University of California Press), *Christianity and American Democracy* (Harvard University Press), and *Raritan*. He gave the James Bryce Commonwealth Lecture at the University of London and guest lectures at Notre Dame, Grove City College, Cornell, and Harvard.



Ricardo Ortiz

Professor Ricardo Ortiz's first book, *Cultural Erotics in Cuban America*, was published in early 2007 by the University of Minnesota Press. Professor Ortiz also recently published an article on the Chicano novelist Arturo Islas in the Fall 2007 issue of the journal *Contemporary Literature*. He has two articles forthcoming. One appears in the Fall 2007 issue of the journal *Social Text* on Celia Cruz and Wyclef Jean's collaboration on the song "Guantanamera." Another on the Haitian-American novelist Edwidge Danticat, will appear in a collection of essays entitled *Aftermaths: Exile, Migration, Diaspora*, to be published by the Rutgers University Press in 2008.

Professor Ortiz has recently returned to Georgetown after serving for three semesters as the Director of the American Communities Program in the College of Arts and Letters at California State University - LA; he is delighted to be back at Georgetown and teaching the American Studies Senior Thesis Seminar once again.

Diana Owen

Professor Diana Owen has been working on comparative studies of the Internet and politics with colleagues from fourteen countries. The result has been the publication of two edited volumes: *The Internet and Politics: Citizens, Activists, and Voters*, Sarah Oates, Diana Owen, Rachel Gibson (eds.), Routledge, 2006, and *Making a Difference: The Internet and Elections in Comparative Perspective*, Stephen Ward, Diana Owen, Richard Davis, and David Taras (eds.), Lexington, 2008.



Tim Raphael

Professor Tim Raphael, Assistant Professor in the Program in Theater & Performance Studies, has recently completed the final draft of his book, *Ronald Reagan: The President Electric*, which will be published by the University of Michigan Press in Fall 2008. In October, he presented a paper describing the process of researching and creating a performance piece about the immigrant detention system at the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Conference in Baltimore. In November, he presented a paper entitled "Time Without Number: The Politics and Performance of Immigrant Detention" at the Performance Studies International Conference at NYU. He is currently in rehearsal for *Wisconsin Death Trip*, a new folk opera based on Michael Lesy's cultural history that he co-wrote with composer Jeff Berkson, which will premier at Georgetown in February.

Q & A with Ricardo Ortiz on “Cultural Erotics in Cuban America”

The following interview was conducted by Michael Keefe-Feldman (MA 07) who interviewed Professor Ortiz to learn more about Ortiz’s motivation for writing “Cultural Erotics in Cuban America” and what the reader might discover in the work.

1. Can you tell us a bit about the process of writing and publishing your first book, “Cultural Erotics in Cuban America?”

The process of writing was pretty organic and slow; some of the chapters first appeared as stand-alone articles in scholarly journals and anthologies, the first dating back to 1996. In some ways it felt like a decade-long labor of love. It makes all the difference in the world to feel deep inspiration or passion for a research topic; those can come in many different forms and from many different sources, but without them scholarly work can really feel like, well, work.

The publishing process was blessedly smooth; I was lucky to have chosen a fine press (Minnesota) with an outstanding reputation in American Studies, Cultural Studies and Critical Theory. I first submitted a near-finished manuscript in June 2004, and I had a contract for publication by December of that year. I finished what was left of the manuscript by August of 2005, and the press worked diligently to get the whole book edited, polished and indexed by the end of 2006, which is pretty fast.

The two most exciting moments for me in the publication process so far have been the first time I saw the beautiful cover design, and when I finally held an actual copy of the book in my hands.

2. For those who haven’t had a chance to read it yet, how would you describe the book and the research within it?

The book is a scholarly work of literary and cultural criticism. It focuses on primarily post-Cold War literary and cultural production by US-based writers, artists and performers of Cuban descent who respond to the experiences of exile, migration, and diaspora, and to all of the personal and collective challenges that those experiences raise.

It makes two large arguments about Cultural Erotics which I carefully map out in the Introduction. The first is that there is more to the post-1959 Cuban-American experience than what’s defined by the exile community in Miami; that is that Cubans in the US comprise an authentically diasporic (that is, scattered) population, with significant if much smaller concentrations in additional cities like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.

The second is that diaporas typically worry about how to reproduce themselves (both biologically and culturally) away from the homeland, and that this anxiety has had a very specific effect on the cultural production of writers and artists who for one reason or another either resist or refuse the demands of sexual and political conformity that their communities might make of them (hence the focus in the book on what I call “Cultural Erotics”).

3. *What drew you to this topic?*

I was born in Cuba. I left with my family during the first wave of exile emigration in the 1960’s, and grew up in Southern California, immersed in one of these undersung diasporic outposts of Cuban America. So in part I wanted to tell the story of that community, especially as I saw the members of my parents’ generation age and die without that story being told.

But I also wanted as much to shine some light on the work of an emerging population of important, talented US-based literary writers and other artists of Cuban descent, most of whom have at best indirect (and always conflicted) ties to the exile community in Miami, and to its political, cultural and sexual values.

4. *Your concluding chapter is titled “On Our American Ground.” How do you view this work, and/or Cuban-American culture in general, within the rubric of American Studies?*

American Studies, especially in recent decades, has been an increasingly welcoming home to interdisciplinary scholarly work on the nation’s immigrant and diasporic communities; I can’t think of a more appropriate intellectual location for work like mine.

But you should know too that “Our-American” Ground refers to a famous 1891 essay by the Cuban writer José Martí entitled “Our America”; Martí, widely credited as the father of Cuban independence as well as a martyr to that cause, lived in exile in New York City for much of his adult life, and wrote prolifically if ambivalently (in Spanish, and mostly for Latin Americans) about the US.



Celebrating Ron Johnson



Ron Johnson and the Class of 2007

This past April, the American Studies program, the History Department, and the Liberal Studies program had the opportunity to celebrate the career of Professor Ronald Johnson. Ron's association with the American Studies program has been long and illustrious. He willingly and enthusiastically brought his talent and commitment to the program for 32 years—since 1975—as a

colleague, teacher, and director. In fact, Ron has been an integral part of American Studies at Georgetown almost from its infancy, having joined the faculty not long after the program was established in 1969 as the University's first interdisciplinary major. We recognize Ron and his wife, Abby, for their years of selfless dedication to American Studies at Georgetown.

Ron is a gifted, and more importantly, beloved teacher. He has been an inspiration to over six hundred and forty American Studies students. He has met the singular challenge of teaching in the American Studies core curriculum, and has team taught in the American Civilization series with a number of different colleagues, including Dean Hugh Cloke and Professor John Hirsh. His courses, such as, *Mark Twain's America* and *What Is an American?* have delighted and challenged students. He facilitated the highly demanding Senior Seminar, and oversaw the writing of over 250 American Studies thesis projects.

Ron repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to give of himself and his time to students in many ways that go above and beyond what is officially expected of a faculty member. He organized American Studies field trips to Monticello, Annapolis, Philadelphia, Harper's Ferry, Antietam, and other places. He staged lectures and organized special events that contributed mightily to the learning experience for both students and faculty.

Ron served as Director of American Studies for a total of 17 years, which is close to half the time that the program has been in existence. In anticipation of Ron's assuming the directorship in 1979, Emmett Curran proclaimed in the American Studies Annual Report, "Of one thing we can be sure: there will be a fresh vision in the director's office." This insight could not have been more prescient. Ron envisioned a plan for the long-range development and growth of the program. He spearheaded successful efforts to endow American Studies and instituted a variety of high-quality initiatives. During Ron's tenure as Director, the Richardson Lecture, funded by a generous endowment by program graduate Eudora Richardson, was established and quickly became an annual highlight of the American Studies calendar. Ron received and administered on behalf of the program a significant grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation which established teaching faculty fellowships in American Studies. Ron embraced the global, transcultural nature of American Studies, and, as he observed in 1991, the "growing need to reinterpret American history and culture as a multi-cultural phenomenon." He reached out to a steady stream of scholars, students, and visitors from abroad—from Argentina, Denmark, France, Japan, Norway, Portugal, and Turkey. All received a hearty welcome to his cramped office in the ICC, and had the opportunity to engage in lively and productive exchanges. Ron nurtured an exchange with Portuguese American Studies faculty in Lisbon. In 1995, Ron, working in conjunction with Dr. Bonnie Oh and members of College and School of Foreign Service, established an Asian American Studies joint curriculum project with the goal of helping faculty to understand the history and traditions of the increasing number of Asian American students attending Georgetown.

Ron has been party to many of the most important developments in the American Studies programs' history. He has been responsible for significant innovations in the curriculum and the expansion of program resources. Most importantly, Ron's character—his warmth, humanity, and compassion—are now ingrained in the culture of the American Studies program, making it a very special place on campus. A quote from Mark Twain's 1907 Affection Speech sums up what Ron Johnson means to American Studies colleagues, students and alumni: "Praise is well, compliment is well, but affection that is the last and final and most precious reward that any man can win, whether by character or achievement."

Where Are They Now?

Alumni Updates

Karen A.J. Miller (75) is currently an Associate Professor and the Chair of the Department of History at Oakland University in Michigan. She is working on two research projects concerning political identity and partisan loyalty in the first half of the twentieth century.

Kathleen Flynn Nagle (75) Immediately following undergrad, Kathleen went on to Georgetown Law Center. After focusing on family for a number of years, Kathleen ran for, and was elected to the position of Town Clerk for Wellesley, MA. This job is American Studies in action, with responsibility for elections, town meetings and a myriad of other functions. Kathleen keeps current with Georgetown through her three sons who have been students over a 12 year span and by following the Men's Basketball team, which culminated in a trip to Atlanta for the Final Four last year.

Daniel F. Ryan (75) is a Partner in the law firm O'Brien & Ryan.

Sylvan Sobel (77) is Director of Communications Policy and Design for the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, DC. Syl's office is responsible for editing, producing, and distributing FJC publications, managing the

agency's websites, and operating the judicial branch's satellite television network. Syl has written a series of children's books on US history and government. His most recent books, on the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, will be published early in 2008.



Daniel Burke (78) is Vice President of Chicago Community Development Corporation, a private development firm that owns and operates 2000 affordable apartments assisted under various HUD programs in the Chicago metropolitan area. Daniel is married to Margot McMahon, a sculptor, and they have three children. The Burkes live in Oak Park, IL.

Jill Leff Lewis (78) retired from the US Navy in 2000 after 20 years. She is currently working at Norfolk Collegiate School as Director of Summer Programs and Extended Care. Jill's husband, Mike, is a Navy Captain who is a dentist assigned to USS Nassau. Her daughter, Jessica, graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College in 2007 and her daughter Lydia is a junior at Old Dominion University. Her youngest, Dana, is a sophomore at Norfolk Collegiate School.

Mary Huger Noone (78) is the Office Manager of The Noone Law Firm in Glenwood Springs, CO.

Mary Jean Ryan (80) is a resident of Seattle, WA. She works as Policy Director for the City of Seattle. She is also the current chair of the Washington State Board of Education. Mary Jean has a daughter who is a high school junior. Her daughter is a strong student and great volleyball player. Mary Jean has great memories of American Studies. The habits of mind gained in the program are constantly helping her.

Nancy Winkler (80) splits her time between Philadelphia and NYC. She is married to Jay Bryan and has two children. Nancy is Managing Director at Public Financial Management. The organization serves as

financial advisors to state and local governments, public agencies, colleges and universities (including Georgetown), hospitals, and non-profits. Nancy's American Studies experience at Georgetown shaped the way she thinks about the world, and has left an enduring impact. She believes she would not be the person she is without that wonderful experience.

Ellen Ryan Mardkis (81) is Chief Marketing Officer at GolinHarris, a top ten global public relations agency based in Chicago, IL.

Trish Sullivan Vanni (81) is enrolled in a PhD program at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She is commuting every week and a half between Berkeley and her home in Eden Prairie, MN where husband and three children are located.

Jeff Perry (82) is working with Third Point LLC, NY, NY.

Frances Magovern O'Connor (83) is living in Pittsburgh and working part-time as Special Counsel with Duane Morris LLP. She has four children and says "Life is good."

Kevin Thomsen (84) made it to American Civilization at the University of Texas-Austin in 1985 as a University Fellow. Kevin then spent 15 years working in international trade / finance, with alternating home life in Washington, Los Angeles, Zurich, Moscow, Kiev and London as part of his "back up plan." As John Hirsh has said,

"We are what we become." Kevin thanks John, Hugh Cloke, Emmett Curran, Lucy Maddox, his fellow classmates and all the others involved with the program between 1982-1984 for the fabulous foundation in cocktail conversation. His family is back in Austin, Texas, which includes his wife, Elizabeth Vandewater, and their two children. He is finally cycling up a storm to get back to his undergraduate weight. His next venture: open a bike shop or write the Next Great American Novel.

Carol Fiore (87) and Joe Laplante (87, LAW 90) are married and living with their three children in Nashua, NH. Carol is no longer practicing law. Joe is a federal prosecutor in the US Attorney's Office in Concord, New Hampshire, and in June 1997 was nominated by President Bush to serve as a federal judge on the United States District Court for the District of NH.

Stephanie Yuhl (88) is an Associate Professor of History at another fine Jesuit school, the College of the Holy Cross. She is living with her husband, Anthony Cashman, and their three children. She authored, [A Golden Haze of Memory: The Making of Historic Charleston](#), which won two academic "best book" prizes in 2006, one for Southern history and the other for historic preservation. Stephanie was the American Studies Assistant under the wonderful Beth McKeown. She sends her best regards to Beth McKeown and Hugh Cloke.

Michelle Van Dervort Barrette (90) is married to fellow class of 90 Am Stud, Bob Barrette who is a Financial Advisor for Merrill Lynch. They have four children.

Christine Glaser Johnston (90) went on to medical school in Philadelphia (Jefferson Medical College) and finished in 1996. She did her residency in Internal Medicine at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia and practiced General Internal Medicine for eight years just south of Philadelphia. She relocated with her family to Northern Colorado for a better quality of life and to be closer to family. Christine is married with two children.

Amy Uelmen (90, LAW 93) is Director of Fordham Law School's Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work. Amy's scholarship focuses on how Catholic spirituality and social teaching shed light on tort law, legal ethics and legal education, and how principles of dialogue might inform debates about religion in the public square. She teaches courses in Catholic Social Thought and the Law and is currently pursuing a Masters in Theology at Fordham. Amy continues to be involved with the Focolare Movement's work in inter-religious and cultural dialogue, and lives in the Focolare community house in the Bronx.

Kristen Donoghue (90) is living in DC, has two kids, and is working at Hogan & Hartson.

Christopher Panarella (91) has been an attorney practicing law in New York City since graduation from NYU School of Law in 1994. He is currently working at Metropolitan Life Insurance Company as an in-house attorney specializing in the area of employment law. Christopher lives in Scarsdale, NY with his wife, Susan, and son, Charlie, who was born in June 2006.

Josh Nickerson (92) is an Attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in Washington, DC. Josh is married and has two sons.

Elizabeth Dolan de Pleitez (92) currently lives in Santa Tecla, El Salvador with her husband Hector Pleitez who graduated from UCA (also a Jesuit university) in 99. Elizabeth earned her Masters in Education in 2002 through an overseas program offered by Framingham State College and the Escuela Americana of El Salvador. She has taught elementary and middle school, and more recently worked as a consultant for various local private schools in the areas of bilingualism, accreditation processes, and teacher training. Elizabeth is currently a stay at home mom with four children ages 3, 5, 7 & 8.

Sherri Miles-Foley (92) is in the roofing business. Sherri recently opened a Charlottesville, VA office and has begun a replacement windows and sunroom business. She and her husband

are building a new home in Virginia Beach to house their four children.

Gregory Crisp Han (93) is a 1998 graduate of Harvard Divinity School (Masters of Divinity), and is working as a Presbyterian Minister and Pastor of a Presbyterian Church in the northeast suburbs of Houston. Gregory and his wife, Holly, have three boys. Gregory was thrilled to get a chance to visit friends when he was in the DC area in January of 2007 for a five day Silent Retreat. He still draws deeply, as a Protestant Minister, from his Jesuit (and American Studies) education. He was especially glad to see Toby Chieffo-Reidway (93), Dean Hugh Cloke, and most of all, my thesis advisor/mentor Elizabeth McKeown (he thanks her for breakfast at Boeey's). Her counsel and support ever since "Problem of God" back in spring 1990 have been very important to him. Gregory is thankful for friendships that have lasted beyond the four years.

Heather Campbell Coyle (94) is Associate Curator at the Delaware Art Museum and is completing her PhD in Art History at the University of Delaware. Heather co-curated the traveling exhibition: "Seeing the City: Sloan's New York." In addition, she oversaw production of the exhibition's educational website, www.johnsloansnewyork.org, and catalogue, *John Sloan's New York*, co-published by Yale University Press.

Katherine (Katy) Tromble (94) is an Associate in the Education Practice at Drinker, Biddle & Reath. She and her husband, Daniel Restrepo, have two children, Isabel and Maria Cristina.

James P. (Jimmy) Wilson, PhD (94) is Manager of Political Education Programs for the American Medical Association.

Jason Zoto (94) was married last year to his wife, Annie, who is from Honolulu, Hawaii. They reside in Battery Park City, Lower Manhattan. Jason serves as Vice President, Legal & Business Affairs, and Deputy General Counsel for Virgin Mobile USA, a wireless telecommunications provider. He focuses on marketing, distribution, and advertising law.

Jamey Brogan (95) and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their third child, John Isaac, born December 14, 2006. He joins Erin and Jimmy. Jamey is in his fifth year as a Campus Minister at Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia

Catherine Egan-Butkiewicz (95) is Associate General Counsel of Lloyds America, Inc. Catherine is married and living in the metro NYC area.

Heather Elliott Hoover (95) is living in Blue Bell, PA with her husband, Tim, and three daughters enjoying her busy days as a mother and often recalls great memories of her American Studies courses and

classmates. She hopes everyone is doing great.

Kano Mayer (95) whose official name is Eric A.K. Mayer, MD, is a physician currently practicing in Dallas, TX. He recently accepted a research fellowship at The Cleveland Clinic and will be spending one year there beginning June 2008. Kano is married, and he will always value his American Studies education.

Gina Dyson (96, GRD 01) is the Service and Operations Manager at Laureate Education. She is currently working in Student Affairs in the online environment. Gina is training for triathlons. She completed her first half Ironman in 2006 and hopes to complete a full Ironman in 2009.

Kimberly Hamlin (96) finished her PhD in American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin in August 2007 and joined the faculty in American Studies and History at Miami University of Ohio. She is currently revising her dissertation, "Beyond Adam's Rib: How Darwinian Evolutionary Theory Redefined Gender and Influenced American Feminist Thought, 1870-1920," for publication. She is happy to talk to any undergrads interested in pursuing a graduate degree in American Studies.
hamlinka@muohio.edu

Liz Stinson (96) is working toward a Doctorate in

Computer Science at Stanford University after having completed her Masters in Computer Science with distinction in research at Stanford and after doing research as a staff member for about a year.

Larkin Hatchett (98) went to law school at the University of Alabama in 2000 after working at the Manhattan D.A.'s Office as a trial preparation assistant for two years. Larkin is a fourth year Associate at Alford, Clausen & McDonald, a general civil defense firm in Mobile, Alabama. His practice is primarily medical malpractice defense.

John Roche (98) is working in software sales a year after completing his MBA at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. On a personal note, he is getting married next fall.

Kirsten Brinker Kulis (98) is still working at Forest City Washington in DC as a Development Manager on historic preservation compliance and the adaptive use of historic buildings, including the Lucky Strike Tobacco Warehouse and the Broadside Mount Shop. She is also starting to work on a few new office development projects in the DC area and a marina. Kirsten married Zachary Reid Kulis, an electrical engineer (robotics), in September 2006.

Micki O'Neil (99) is in Chicago, IL, and is Managing

Director of Alumni Programs at Teach For America

Melissa Tidwell (99) is Associate Corporate Counsel for Google Inc. in Mountain View, CA.

Stephen Buckingham (00) is living in DC. He is currently an attorney at the US Department of Justice, Federal Programs Branch. Stephen recently married Shannon Spillane (SFS 00).

Scott Coyle (00) is completing his final year at Stanford Law School and will be clerking for Judge Marsha Berzon on the Ninth Circuit next year. He says it was great to see several members of the American Studies Class of 2000 at Chris Matteis' wedding last summer in Portland.

Jacques Arsenault (01) is leaving Georgetown University, after working in various public affairs capacities over the past six years since graduating in 2001. He will be working as Director of Partnerships and Programming for the Political Leadership Initiative at Teach for America. He just celebrated his second wedding anniversary, to his wonderful wife, Elizabeth Grimm Arsenault.

Lizzy Whitehorn (01) graduated from Northwestern Law School in May 2007, and is currently working for the Seventh Circuit Federal Court of Appeals Staff Law Clerk's Office. Lizzy got married in May

2006 to a fellow Georgetown grad, Matt Reilein (SFS 00), and two of her bridesmaids were American Studies classmates (Melissa Marinelli and Jenny Schwarz)! She is living in Chicago, IL.

Dominic Ambrosio (02) is Associate Director at Corporate Executive Board-Solutions, a DC based management consulting firm. Dominic just celebrated his fifth anniversary with the firm.

Elena K. Boyd (02) is living in New York.

Christiane Connors (02) served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the central African country of Gabon. She spent most of her time teaching at a rural high school and working with environmental conservation NGOs to establish Gabon's national parks. Upon her return, Christiane worked at the National Democratic Institute in Washington, DC before heading off to Brighton, England on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship where she studied the Anthropology of Development at the University of Sussex. In conjunction with her MA program, she spent the summer in Kenya conducting fieldwork on community-based responses to HIV and AIDS in the Archdiocese of Mombasa. Christiane then returned from Kenya and accepted a position at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in DC as the Director of Special Projects and

Publications with the secondary schools department.

Adam McGovern (02) is currently a student at Boston College Law School, Class of 2009.

Megan Lawson Sharpe (02) is married to Richard Sharpe (Col 02, Med 08, MSB 08). She is currently a third year medical student at Georgetown University School of Medicine and will graduate May 2009.

Danielle DeGerbo (03) is living with her wife, Eliyanna Kaiser, in Manhattan. Danielle is working for the New York City Council for the local legislature in the Land Use Division as a Project Manager assessing development and preservation proposals. She has worked for the Council since graduation. Her most memorable professional accomplishment so far has been working on a successful multi-year campaign to defeat a wrongheaded proposal to place a football stadium on the West Side of Manhattan.

Jason Griffin (03) is living in Los Angeles as a Programming Coordinator/Music Director for 104.3 MyFM in Los Angeles, CA.

Walter Nelson (03) is working for Marine Investigations International Registries, Inc. He earned his MS in International Transportation Management from SUNY Maritime. Walter is looking forward to Hoyas basketball 2007-08.

Mark Smith (03, L 06) is currently an attorney at Winston & Strawn LLP in Washington, DC.

Erin Sullivan (03) is an Associate Attorney (pending bar admission), at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Washington, DC.

Corinne E. Tapia (03) serves as the Chief of Staff for the American Democracy Institute, in Washington, D.C. ADI was founded on the belief that given the opportunity, information and resources, young people can be a powerful force for social and political change in our democracy. Please visit EmpowerChange.org.

Doran Arik (04) is a second year student at Brooklyn Law School in NY. Doran is hoping to return to DC upon graduating.

Emily Bishop (04) graduated cum laude from NYU School of Law in May 2007. Emily was the Senior Notes Editor for the NYU Law Review. Her Student Note, "A Child's Expertise: Establishing Statutory Protection for Intersexed Children Who Reject Their Gender of Assignment," was published in the Law Review's May 2007 issue. She is currently completing a two year federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable Shirley Wohl Kram in the Southern District of NY. She is engaged to fellow Georgetown alum, Kevin Leftwich (MSB 04). Their wedding is scheduled for October 2009.

Stephen de Man (04) After teaching eighth grade US History in the Rio Grande Valley, Stephen is now a Recruitment Director for Teach For America in Washington, DC.

Pippa (Phillipa) Koch (04) is living in Chicago, IL, and working on a doctoral degree at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Pippa's main area of interest is early American religion. Pippa got married this past summer (July 15, 2007) to a fellow grad student, Vince Evener.

Sandy Kreis (04) relocated in 2006 from Shearman & Sterling LLP in NYC to LA to work as the VIP coordinator for Environment California and the US Public Interest Research Group. Sandy's main focus was increasing the visibility and power of the organization through VIP recruitment and fundraising. She was the lead project coordinator for a Global Warming Awareness Fundraiser at the home of Paul Haggis. She successfully recruited over thirty celebrities and VIPs to sponsor the event by joining the Host Committee and secured Davis Guggenheim (Director of "An Inconvenient Truth") to address the crowd. She is pursuing a Masters at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University. Sandy is concentrating in both International Environment & Resource Policy and International Business Relations. Sandy plans to help both the private and public

sector smoothly transition to alternative (and greener!) sources of energy.

Avery Pardee (04) is an attorney at Jones Walker, LLP in New Orleans, LA. Avery graduated JD, summa cum laude, from Tulane University Law School in 2007.

Cynthia Redwine (04) attended University of Texas for law school and graduated in May 2007. She is an Associate with Vinson and Elkins in Houston.

Stephen F. Alleva (05) is Director of Ticket Sales at Georgetown University Athletics.

Jennifer Farace (05) is attending Duke Law School. She is a JD Candidate for 2008. She will then be working for Kaye Scholer LLP in their NYC office.

Joe Morrell (05) is a Senior Consultant with Healthcare Commercial Payer practice at Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Christina Weyl (05) is currently working as the Director of Gemini G.E.L. at Joni Moisant Weyl, an art gallery in New York City. Also, a portion of her senior thesis about the early career of Grace Albee (1890-1985), an American Regionalist printmaker, was just published in Print Quarterly.

Seth Lavin (06) completed a 50 mile road race around

Chicago's lakefront this past fall.

Katie Kaiser (06) is attending Georgetown University Law Center. She is a JD Candidate for 2010.

Marcel Arsenault (07) is living in Bristol, RI. Right now, Marcel is a singer/songwriter. His website is: www.myspace.com/marcelarsenault.

Jenna Borgia (07) is living in New York and is a first year Teach for America corps member teaching 8th grade at a middle school in Washington Heights.

Molly Creeden (07) is living in New York and is an Editorial Assistant at Cosmopolitan Magazine.

Jamie Lynn Thalgott (07) is a law student at Vanderbilt. She is a JD Candidate for 2010.

Thank you to everyone who submitted updates. If there is anyone we missed, please let us know and we will be sure to include your update in the next newsletter.

Please join
The American Studies Program
at Georgetown University
for the
2008 Richardson Lecture

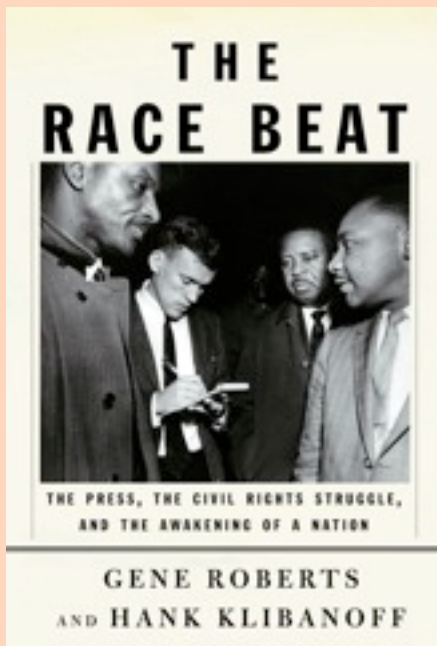
***The Race Beat:
The Press and the Civil Rights Movement***

A discussion of journalism and American history by

Gene Roberts

2007 Pulitzer Prizewinner
Professor, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, University of Maryland
Former Managing Editor of *The New York Times*
Former Executive Editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Thursday, March 27th at 5:00PM in Riggs Library,
Georgetown University



Gene Roberts is the co-author of The Race Beat: The Press, the Civil Rights Struggle, and the Awakening of a Nation, which won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2007. Roberts was the chief southern and civil rights correspondent for the *New York Times* during the height of the civil rights movement. He is currently a professor at University of Maryland in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Roberts went to UMD following 18 years as the executive editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, which won 17 Pulitzer Prizes during his editorship. He took a hiatus from his university work from 1994 to 1997 to serve as managing editor of *The New York Times*. In 1998, he returned to the College, where he teaches courses on writing the complex story, the press and the civil rights movement, and newsroom management. He has been a Neiman Fellow at Harvard University, and received the National Press Club's Fourth Estate Award for Distinguished Contributions to Journalism.

For more information, please contact American Studies, Georgetown University, 3520 Prospect Street, NW, Suite 311, Washington, D.C. 20057; phone (202) 687-7878; email amst@georgetown.edu

AMERICAN STUDIES: *Beyond the Classroom*



*Photo submitted by
Frances Bajet*

Trip to Historic Mt. Vernon, November 2007 (above)



*Photo submitted
by Ryan Zhang*



American Civilization III
Documentary Film Presentations,
Fall 2006 (left)

Photo submitted by Jennifer Foldvary



Clara Barton House Outing,
Fall 2006 (right)

*Photo submitted by
Prof. William McDonald*

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Thank You